



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Recreation Commission Minutes 04/14/2009

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, April 14, 2009.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Don Vitters, Jim Robillard and Nancy Campbell. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Jeanne Leary, Jim Ballin, Rita Dezaure, Author Ward, Carla Cerrato, Dave Cerrato, Jo Ruthowski, Lisa Moore, Bob Lalicata, Joel Higginson, Joey Glushko, Liz Nugg, Cathy Saleh, Henry Brush.

Approval of Minutes

The Park and Recreation Commission made a motion to approve the minutes of February 10, 2009 and March 10, 2009. Ms. Campbell made the motion, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Summer Street Neighbors Association

Ms. Jeanne Leary reviewed the concerns of the SSNA with regards to moving the playground. Ms. Leary identified the following issues: reduction in size of the new playground, new location proximity to irrigation, increased shade at existing site, old site proximity to the old spray pool, existing trees for kids to climb, and various safety concerns.

Ms. Leary and the Commission reviewed the concerns. Mr. Connelly explained that some of the benefits of the new site and disadvantages of the existing site. Mr. Connelly showed a sample of a playground design that would fit on site and would give more play components than currently exists on the existing site. Mr. Connelly explained that the linear nature of the existing site and number of trees and root systems would make it difficult to get as many play experiences on the current site. Mr. Connelly also explained that you could not build a linear playground and use the rubberized surface, as it would be too cost prohibitive.

Mr. Lalicata discussed the safety concerns with the lack of safety lighting on the existing site. Ms. Mayer discussed the Commission concern of safety as well and stated that it was a police issue that needed to be addressed at many of our outdoor open spaces. Ms. Mayer stated that lighting would be discussed as part of the new plan and that sensors may be the answer to some of the current problems. Mr. Higginson encouraged the Commission to work with the Police on a community policy for the open spaces and the Summer Street area especially.

The Commission and Mr. Connelly discussed that the first brainstorming meeting could take place without dedicating the exact location. Mr. Connelly explained that the first meeting was to look at the different play component that the community may want and need. Ms. Mayer asked that after this meeting both locations be looked at for the benefits and disadvantages with regards to the play components illustrated in the brainstorming meeting. Mr. Connelly will set up the first public hearing once a landscape architect for the project has been hired.

Additional Playground Equipment at Bishop

Mr. Balin reviewed the proposal to add an outdoor musical instrument to the new play area at the Bishop School Playground. . Mr. Balin described the instrument to be installed and reviewed the placement. Mr. Connelly stated that the placement met all codes for safety area and that it would not interfere with future playground development. Mr. Balin further reviewed the benefits of the equipment and explained how it was being custom made to adhere to the playground safety standards. Mr. Balin stated that this project was being fully funded out of a Toyota grant.

Mr. Vitters asked if there were any examples of this type of equipment that could be viewed locally. Mr. Balin did not believe so but would inquire with the designer. Ms. Mayer expressed her concern was over the noise the equipment may bring to the neighborhood after the normal school day. Ms. Rothenberg and Ms. Mayer suggested asking the designer to give some examples of public places these instruments may be in to solicit feedback.

Mr. Connelly suggested making the unit moveable so that if a problem with noise did occur the unit could be moved inside to the music classroom.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approved the placement of the equipment with the following conditions:

- Feedback was solicited from other like areas where the equipment may be located and no visible problems arised.
- The unit be installed so that it is moveable.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

Arlington Sport Center Feasibility Study

Mr. Christo, Mr. Hollywood and Mr. Stevens entered the meeting. Mr. Vitters excused himself from the discussion and removed himself from the head table. Ms. Mayer gave a brief summary of the process to date. Mr. Christo reviewed the modifications in the Master Plan with the Commission. Mr. Connelly suggested that Sasaki review the plan and modifications in their entirety before answering questions. Mr. Christos first reviewed the different components of the complex. Mr. Christo detailed the connection between the different components and the pedestrian connectivity. Ms. Mayer asked if any of the plans called for vehicular traffic to cross the bike path. Mr. Christo stated that only pedestrian traffic crossings would be necessary.

Mr. Stevens reviewed the preliminary plans and phases for the inside of the building and how each of the three phases were separate but also interconnected to each other.

Mr. Christos finished the presentation by reviewing the breakdown of the segments of work and how each phase and job block was related to each other.

Facility Supervisor, Dave Cunningham discussed his concerns with Sasaki. A representative from the SSNA did state that if the parking lot on the other side of the bike path was ever considered ownership rights would have to be taken into consideration with the Lalacata's owning some of Ryder Street.

The Commission discussed how different phases could still be changed or removed from the plan. Ms. Mayer thanked the Sasaki for their efforts and discussed the next phase. Mr. Hollywood stated that they would make some slight modifications and then present the feasibility study to the Commission in a finalized form.

Comfort Facilities in Our Parks

Ms. Mayer reviewed the proposal and the background of the initial request. Ms. Saleh reviewed the proposal and the pilot program. The Commission discussed and reviewed the length of the pilot program. Mr. Connelly stated that the Board of Health did request that the units be 75' from a property line if at all possible. Ms. Saleh reviewed the 24-hour response time and extra insurance coverage.

Ms. Saleh stated that the proposal was reviewed by the Department Heads, Field Users, Friends of Parks and the public at a

Public Hearing. The Commission discussed the type of closure and its cost and installation requirements.

Ms. Mayer stated that Robbins should also be evaluated after 2-months especially to evaluate placement. The Commission discussed evaluating each of the units two-month intervals.

Mr. Moniak suggested talking to the Tennis Association and the Adult Softball league for financial assistance as well. Ms. Morris reviewed her concerns with the proposal. Ms. Morris highlighted concerns with signing a contract, long-term funding, vandalism, length of time the units are at a field and the appearance/odor of the units. The Commission discussed those concerns with Ms. Morris.

Mr. Connelly reviewed each of the proposed locations with the Commission stating the areas have been marked. While reviewing the placements, the Commission discussed keeping the color of the units neutral such as a forest green.

The Commission discussed placing notices on each unit identifying appropriate emergency maintenance phone numbers as well as the date of the next public hearing for evaluating the program.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the proposal for recommendation to the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen for the two-month trial period after which time a formal evaluation process will occur. The motion was seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0.

Acceptance of Donations

Mr. Connelly submitted material for the Commission to review. Ms. Mayer asked the Commission to review the paperwork for discussion at the May meeting.

Picnic Policy

Mr. Connelly submitted material for the Commission to review. Ms. Mayer asked the Commission to review the paperwork for vote at the May meeting.

Rink and Recreation Update

Rink – Mr. Connelly indicated that the ice rink operations would be ending on April 6th. Mr. Connelly stated that next month he would be reviewing the proposed fee changes to assist in paying of the debt service on the proposed one million dollar capital request.

Recreation – Mr. Connelly distributed the latest brochure for the Commission to review. Mr. Connelly stated that participation numbers were up from last year.

Special Event Approvals

Dallin School- 6/6 – Parallel – Ms. Campbell motion to approve seconded Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

Friends of Robbins – 8/14 - Robbins Farm Revised

Mr. Connelly explained that this was a request to revise the order of conditions for a police detail with more accurate participant numbers in hand. The Commission discussed the request. - Ms. Campbell motion to approve seconded Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

Stratton School – 6/11 – Spy Field, Hardy School – 6/12 – Spy Field, Lesley Ellis – Spy Field – 6/1 - Mr. Connelly explained the time requested was 9 AM – 2 PM for all three requests. The Commission discussed the request. - Ms. Campbell motion to approve, seconded Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Thompson – North Union – 6/18 – Mr. Vitters motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0. Mr. Connelly will remind them that all cooking should take place on the hard top and that proper grilling permits must be received from the Fire Department and the Board of Health.

Ice Fee Recommendations for 2009-2010

Mr. Connelly and Mr. Cunningham reviewed the proposed fee structure for next season and the reason for the increases. Mr. Connelly stated the increase was directly due to the payment of the \$1 million dollar bond for the necessary capital improvements. Mr. Connelly also stated Mr. Cunningham and himself did meet with representatives from the DCR to discuss the increase and the intended capital project.

Ms. Campbell motioned to approve the 2009-2010 fee structure as highlighted below. Seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

	<u>2009-2010</u>
50-M in Youth	- \$225
60-M in Youth	- \$235
50-M in HS	- \$225
60-M in HS	- \$235
50-M in Others	- \$225
60-M in Others	- \$235
Game Rate	- \$235

Capital Update

Buzzell Field - Mr. Connelly stated that the playground was completed and that funds were still being held to ensure turf quality.

Thorndike Parking – Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly reviewed the hearing with the Redevelopment Boards stating that a special permit was received and that they would now be meeting with the Conservation Commission.

Pheasant Ave. – Mr. Connelly stated that the playground was completed and that funds were still being held to ensure turf quality.

Committee Updates

Comfort Facility and Friends of Parks – Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Green Dog Committee – No new news on this item

Correspondence

N/A

Other

N/A

Ms. Campbell motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:25 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation